



The Coolidge Times

A Letter from the Principal

By Amy B. Clouter

Happy 2007. At this time of year we all find ourselves making resolutions. A few of us even find ourselves keeping them! While I'm smiling as I write this, I know well the challenge that keeping resolutions presents, never more so than this year. In fact, in thinking through my hopes and dreams for the year ahead, I found I had a lot in common with our students. Let me tell you why.

First of all, I am resolved to "do better" without a complete sense of the tasks ahead. Sure, I know about the regular routines, and the important functions of the job. I can even predict the necessity of unofficial duties, like preparing for snow-or assisting during rainy day recess. I know that we all need to revisit the rules come January. Like the children, however, I am still learning about how to improve as I perform those routines. Moreover, I am dependent on others for feedback if I am to reach my goal. I rely on those around me to name what I am doing well. More importantly, I rely on others to tell me what I am *not* doing well. This can be

a difficult arrangement, for giver and receiver! Yet no doubt, we learn well under conditions like these. I'm writing today in an effort to invite you to share. Some of you have feedback at the ready. Please-fire away. Some of you may read the word 'share' and think "Gee, I have a few resolutions myself," and plan on being a bit more forthcoming about them with others. Either way you'd like to participate, you are welcome. Even if you opt out of these choices, I'd like you to recognize the important role you play at home as your child sets and works toward goals.

What can you do?

First of all, help your child to understand that naming a goal is just a beginning. It can be the hardest part, if the goal is an honest one. But it's just a start. One of my goals is to acknowledge in a more timely way the significant parent efforts that support Coolidge School. This is a good goal for me because I need to work on getting my thank-yous out faster. In order to do that, however, I've also learned that I need to think beyond the intent.

Your child does, too. Most kids need some help thinking through how to match resources to resolve. In my case, I needed to purchase some stationery. I also needed to put in place a system of noting occasions when thanks was required, and preserving time in the day to follow up. You can be of enormous help in asking questions about resources when your child is at this point in the process. For example, if your child wants to get better at math, asking "What do you need to practice in order to do that?" and then "Where will you keep these tools?" will help your child to take responsibility for thinking through the actions that will support reaching the goal. After all, your math and organization skills are already pretty good. You want to make sure the right person is learning the habits of mind that will help! Finally, we all know that sticking to plans is made much easier with support. Take time each week to check in with your child about the goals s/he's set. Share your own dreams, and celebrate efforts and successes. May we all "do better"-together.

A Note From The Co-

Presidents: ☺

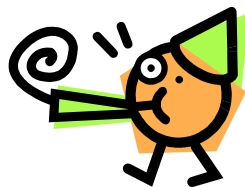
Happy New Year!
Thank you to everyone who helped Coolidge end 2006 with a wonderful Snowflake Festival and a lovely performance from the Worcester State Choral Group, especially Kathy Taylor, Karen Coulombe and Noelle Freeman. Thank you also to all the people who helped cut out a variety of shapes for the kids to decorate. Lastly, thank you to everyone who contributed to the Giving Tree for St. Anne's human services. We hope everyone had a healthy and happy winter holiday. As we welcome you all back for January and the New Year, we have a few dates for you to keep in mind. There will be a PTO meeting on Tuesday, January 9th at 7:00PM in the Media Center. There will be babysitting available for children in Kindergarten through 6th grade. We will be discussing many things including the Spring Fundraiser, Coolidge T-shirt ideas, and Breakfast with a Buddy. School Store will be open again on Friday, January 12th, and Friday, the 19th.

This month, we are asking that third graders please contribute donations to stock the store. The fourth graders helping to run the store did an excellent job last month and it was a successful and fun event for all. We hope you will consider volunteering for an upcoming event such as Math night coming up this month, Breakfast with a Buddy coming up in February, or Movie Night coming up in March. Please keep in touch and stay involved.

Karen and Sue

Contact Information:

☎ Susan Harris
aldsue@townisp.com,
Karen Jervah
kjervah@townisp.com,
Noelle Freeman
snfree@townisp.com,
Kathy Taylor
kathleen.taylor@townisp.com, Melissa Magnuson @
lmpmagnuson@aol.com



IMPORTANT DATES:

- *Tuesday 1/9, 7p.m.*
PTO meeting
- *Thursday 1/11, 5:30*
School Council meeting at
SHS in the Media Center

SCHOOL STORE UPDATE

The school store will be open from 8:15-8:45 on Friday 1/12 for 2nd and 3rd graders and Friday 1/19 from for 1st and 4th graders. Students may spend up to \$1.00 on school supply items.

3rd Grade Families:

Please consider making a donation to the school store.

The donations can be placed in the bin in the lobby. Contact Denise Johnson at denisej@townisp.com with questions.



NURSE'S NOTE

With the arrival of December, the cold New England weather is sure to follow.

The children will go out to recess every day as long as it is not raining and the temperature is above 20F (including wind chill factor). Please send your child to school dressed appropriately for outdoor play with a heavy coat, hat, gloves, and boots.

Mrs. Zimmerman, R.N.

⚡FYI...

iu (1) School

Cancellations:

7NEWS can notify your cell phone as soon as your child's school closes or delays classes because of a snow storm. They way to register is:

Go to www.whdh.com

<<http://www.whdh.com/>> and click on "Closing bell on your cell."

Then you need to input your cell phone number, name of your carrier and the schools you are interested in hearing about.

(2) Box Tops

If you sign up at boxtops4education.com/super, you earn 7 box tops for Coolidge (2 more if you complete a brief survey)



BOOKS & BEYOND

The students have been making tremendous progress in moving their grade level trains along the reading program track in Coolidge's gymnasium! Grades 2, 3 and 4 have reached and moved past Station 2! Even better, with 20 more students we will have reached our 100% participation goal. Please keep recording those reading minutes and help your student's grade level train continue to move down the track. All it takes is ten minutes a day!

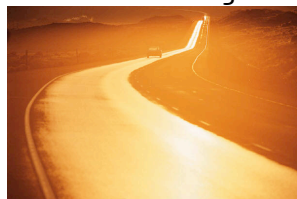
If you have any questions about the program, please contact Kathy Taylor at 508.890.5854 or

Kathleen_taylor@townisp.com

Books for Coolidge: If you wish to donate a book to the Media Center to celebrate a holiday, birthday, for teacher appreciation, in memory of a loved one, or just because you love Coolidge, please contact Katie Busick at (508) 792- 4259 or ktbusick@townisp.com <<mailto:ktbusick@townisp.com>> .

Look for Coolidge on Cable

Thanks to Mrs. Korab And her crew of high school students, another Elementary Update is in the works. Also, through the combined efforts of Denise Johnson, Deanna Fernacz and Jackie Somalis many of our school meetings have been filmed for your at-home viewing.



**THANKS
TO MARTHA CARR,
SANDY MARCELLO
AND DENNIS
BOWDOIN FOR HELP
WITH DROP OFF &
PARENT PICK UP**

Treats for Staff:

Every month the PTO provides a special treat for the staff of Coolidge School. We do this to show our appreciation for all that they do to teach our children in a safe, nurturing environment with limited resources. Some of the things that this committee has provided in the past are chocolates, flowers in the staff room, breakfast, cookies and cocoa, fruit and vegetable trays and a pizza party. If you are interested in helping on this committee or have a great way to show your appreciation, please contact Denise Johnson at denisej@townisp.com.

**In memory of a great
American...**